

Watershed Health and Aquatic Habitats

No Action Alternative – 1988 Plan as amended

- ***SNFPA (2004) - substantial updates, integrated water quality and aquatic habitat strategy - Aquatic Management Strategy (AMS)***
 - Amended Plan includes both SEZs and RCAs – can be confusing because areas overlap on ground
 - Includes designation of Critical Aquatic Refuges (CARs)
 - General direction for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Mountain Yellow-legged Frog recovery
- ***Does not address climate change***
- ***Strong water quality focus throughout 1988 Plan, including SNFPA***
 - SNFPA standards require participation in TMDL development
 - Watershed restoration direction not very strong or well defined
 - Allows for livestock grazing on forested lands
- ***Limited management in SEZs; primarily to improve water quality***
- ***Minimal direction for aquatic invasive species***

SNFPA = Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment
aka Sierra Nevada Framework

Watershed Health and Aquatic Habitats

Current Draft

- ***Retain SNFPA Aquatic Management Strategy (AMS) concepts***
 - Integrated approach – restore stream systems and aquatic habitats (SEZs)
 - Greater emphasis on habitat elements critical for species' life history - restore where needed (barrier beaches)
 - Drop Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs), but retain management direction and apply to SEZs
 - Maintain Critical Aquatic Refuges (CARs) under a different name (Species Refuge Areas)
 - Increase emphasis and specificity for recovery of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Mountain Yellow-legged Frog
- ***Address climate change***
 - Build resilience into watershed systems - climate change (rain on snow events, longer, drier summers)
 - Increase emphasis on promoting water storage and habitat complexity in meadows and wetlands
- ***Continue water quality focus***
 - Objectives for BMP effectiveness
 - Continue collaborative efforts for Lake Tahoe TMDL
 - BMP retrofits at recreation facilities
 - Water quality upgrades on roads and trails
 - Continued emphasis of stream restoration for water quality objectives
 - Range management not a suitable use
- ***More active SEZ management; benefits for multiple resources***
- ***New plan direction for aquatic invasive species***
 - Strategies to prevent new infestations
 - Work collaboratively to control or eradicate known populations

Watershed Health and Aquatic Habitats

Building Blocks for Potential Alternatives

- Restore aquatic habitats at the expense of recreation facilities and access

What have we missed?

Vegetation and Wildlife

No Action Alternative – 1988 Plan as amended

• ***General Vegetation/Terrestrial Ecosystems***

- Emphasis on forest fuels reduction and habitat preservation, managing terrestrial habitats by meeting minimum standards.
- Minimum crown cover based on late seral-dependent species habitat needs—not specific to vegetation types
- Allows (2004 SNFPA) and emphasizes (1988 LMP) timber salvage to recover value
- Includes Old Forest Emphasis Areas (OFEAs) for preserving old growth
- Emphasizes natural role of fire as an ecosystem process
- Does not address climate change

• ***Species Refuge Areas***

- Bald eagle management zone described
- Detailed preservation approach (e.g. retention of minimum canopy cover) from 2004 SNFPA for managing northern goshawk and spotted owl PACs and HRCAs described

• ***Threatened and Endangered Species, Sensitive Species, and Management Indicator Species***

- Threatened and endangered species determined by USFWS
- Threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout identified for recovery action
- Sensitive species determined by USFS Regional Forester list
- Management indicator species (MIS) determined by 2008 MIS Amendment

• ***Invasive Species***

- SNFPA (2004) provides direction for noxious weed management, but mostly silent on aquatic invasive species

Vegetation and Wildlife

Current Draft

- ***General Vegetation/Terrestrial Ecosystems***

- Greater emphasis on forest restoration toward desired conditions specific to vegetation types
- Emphasis on integration of fuels, vegetation, and habitat management
- Salvage considered only after restoration/protection needs
- Manage for preserving, promoting, and perpetuating the old growth condition wherever it occurs with provisions for connectivity
- Emphasizes natural role of fire as an ecosystem process and provides more flexibility in managing wildfires
- Emphasis on managing forest for increased resiliency to climate change

- ***Species Refuge Areas***

- No significant change to bald eagle management zone
- Preservation approach retained to northern goshawk and spotted owl PACs and HRCAs with strategy more specific to Lake Tahoe Basin (e.g. east and west-side canopy closures) and greater flexibility to restore while maintaining (short term) or enhancing (long term) habitat suitability

- ***Threatened and Endangered Species, Sensitive Species, and Management Indicator Species***

- Greater emphasis and more contemporary approach to LCT recovery
- No change to species lists

- ***Invasive Species***

- Greater emphasis on management of invasive species; addresses contemporary aquatic invasive species

Vegetation and Wildlife

Building Blocks for Potential Alternatives

- **Light management/natural approach** —concentrate community protection efforts immediately adjacent to communities. Elsewhere, allow nature to take its course.
- **Retain/re-delineate Old Forest Emphasis Areas** (part of no action)
- **New species lists (SOI, SOC, or other)**—considered but outside scope of 2000 Planning Rule
- **Increase the rate and scale** — Rate and scale of current efforts will not be enough.
- **Sierra Nevada scale/All lands** —across jurisdictional boundaries
- **Readiness for climate change** — Do we need to be more aggressive or proactive?

What have we missed?

Recreation

No Action Alternative – 1988 Plan as amended

Based primarily on the predicted condition that recreation use will continue to increase.

•***Developed Recreation Infrastructure - Expansion Emphasis***

- Expansion of developed recreation sites, alpine skiing facilities, and improvements to existing sites.

•***Public Access***

- Trail Systems** - Trail systems will be enlarged and trailhead parking facilities will be constructed.
- **Road Systems** - Managed via Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).
 - Designated routes & areas only using closed unless open concept.
- **Over Snow Vehicle (OSV)** - Management follows Snowmobile Guide (2006)
 - Designates areas where snowmobiles and other over the snow vehicles are permitted and those areas closed to winter motorized use.

•***Wilderness***

- There are portions of three congressionally designated wilderness areas within the LTBMU boundaries (Desolation, Granite Chief, and Mt. Rose).

•***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

- Wild and Scenic River Eligibility** - Follow the management requirements for the section of the Upper Truckee River that is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (Eight Eastside Rivers EIS -1998)

Recreation

Current Draft

Recreation direction for the current draft would focus on adapting to changing recreation trends and taking care of what we've got.

- ***Developed Recreation Infrastructure - Restoration and Sustainability Emphasis***

- Modify existing recreation sites to respond to future demands and trends. Expansion will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Reduce the deferred maintenance backlog.
- Allow developed resort areas and ski areas to move towards multi-season opportunities.
- Potential expansion of the use of concessionaires and other partnerships to improve facility maintenance and reduce the cost to government.

- ***Public Access***

- **Trail Systems** – Comprehensive planning for area-wide systems. Maximize connections, logical loops, and linkages.
- **Road Systems** - Emphasize multi-modal transportation and viable alternatives to the private automobile. Continue use of MVUM.
- **Over Snow Vehicle (OSV)**
 - OSV - Implement 'Over Snow Vehicle Use Map' (OSVUM).

- ***Wilderness***

- **Wilderness Evaluation** - Evaluate lands for wilderness potential.

- ***Wild and Scenic Rivers*** – no change from existing.

Recreation

Building Blocks for Potential Alternatives

- Reduce/remove facilities in sensitive areas, and change use and management accordingly.
- Allow for modifications to settings to respond to future demands and trends.
- Separate User Groups
 - Motorized/Non-motorized
 - Mt. Bikes/Hikers
- Snowmobile Use
 - In Forest Plan or in separate process?

What have we missed?